

The Korean language learning



Rémi VUILLAUME

3AI

2013/2014

Table of contents

Introduction	2
A/ Project formalization	3
a. The Koran language.....	3
b. The personal aspect of the project.....	4
B/ A working method scalable	6
a. From a method framed... ..	6
The procrastination	6
The sequence 1: The beginning of my learning	7
b. ...to a flexible approach	8
The method improved	8
A little change in this method which suits me more	9
C/ The past learning to an optimal method.....	10
a. My vision of the language learning	10
b. What I keep from this project	10
c. My future way to learn.....	11
Conclusion	12
Bibliography	13

Introduction

At the beginning of September, the scholar year started with the presentation of the self-learning project. I already knew that we had to make a project in group or individually so during the summer holidays I took little time to think about it. I took this project as a testing project into the one the most important is to discover about I and not about a topic. I felt the subject of the project as a working tool to analyse my behaviour.

I am really fine to work in project group. Since I am in ENSGSI, I have worked into a lot of different group, with different size of group, with different members and about different topics. That is why this project is for me the opportunity to try to realize a project alone. I really enjoy to work in group and be alone in a long project can permit me to explore an area of discomfort. Moreover, the project that I planned to do will be useful for me in the future. Indeed, the topic of my project is to start to learn the Korean language. Why? There are two reasons. The first one is to discover a new language and new culture completely different from European culture and languages. The second is because in February 2014, I will go for one year in South Korea to spend my caesura.

This project is a mix between discovery and usefulness. I could choose to develop my English to get a high level but I preferred to explore a new world. Being young, I didn't have real interest on languages but I liked geography. Now, I realize that languages are really important to understand the culture. I think the language is part of the reflection of a culture. Furthermore, I feel that it is becoming really important to know about different languages for my job later. Languages is getting a place as important as the knowledge related to our study. Now, I feel really interesting about languages and really want to be able to speak different languages as well as my native language.

A/ Project formalization

During this first part, I will tell about the beginning of my project. This step used around two weeks and permitted me to formalize my project.

a. The Korean language

As I said, I really like geography, culture, people... the World. I enjoy to travel to discover new places all over the World. I have already visited a lot of country but just in Europe. I am in BEST organization since three years and was the Vice-President one year ago. This organization permitted me to organize and participate to some events all over Europe. My English level was low before joining BEST. After my first year in BEST and during my first engineering year, my TOEIC score grown up from 400 to 595. To continue this improvement, I chose to study one semester in Luleå during my second engineering year. This experience permitted me to meet a lot of people from all over the world and study in an international university. Even I didn't pass the TOEIC since the first engineering year, I can guess my TOEIC score is now close to 780 and maybe up.



Before to go to Sweden, I planned to make a caesura just before my internship to grade the third engineering year. I was hesitating between travel in Asia and travel in Australia. In Sweden I met my girlfriend who is Korean and discovered about this country thanks to her. I realized this country is really close to my values. I enquired more about Asia and South Korea. I really like the Asian culture based on the respect and the humbleness. In Asia, South Korea is the country the most close to these values. Unfortunately, I think these values are less present in our European culture. That's why I was happy to work on the South Korean culture and language which are close to my values. Their culture gave me the desire to discover more by living one year in this country. That is why the 21 of February I will take the flight to Anyang in Korea. The biggest fence in my trip is not the Korean culture who interests me a lot but the language. This language is really different, with different letters, different sounds and different way to build the sentences. Now, you can understand why I chose to study about Korean. So, last September, I was really clear about my subject for this project but I didn't know well about the personal aspect that I could test.

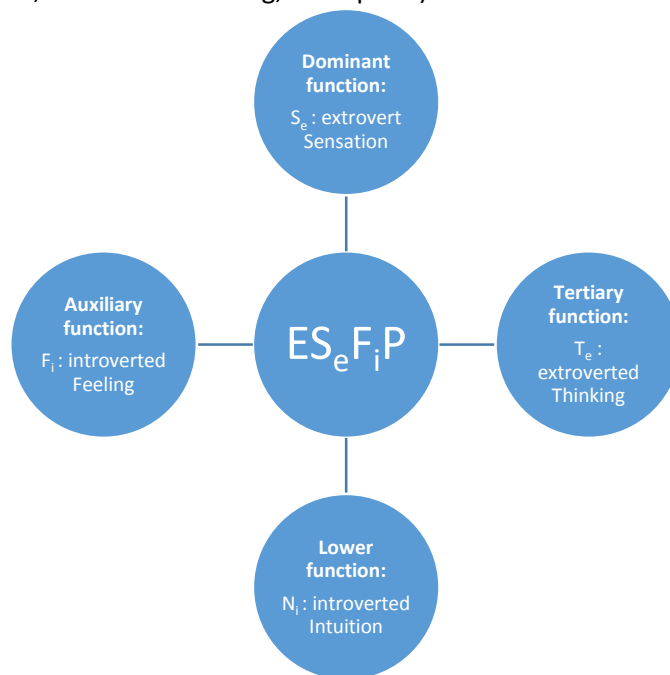


The first day, we had to define few things about our project. I did it but just for the Korean language learning and not the personal aspect. What I wished with this project was to get a level enough high to permit me to start to live in South Korea. I mean: be able to ask my way in the street, be able to introduce me, be able to have a basic discussion with a native Korean... Moreover, I wanted to discover more about Asian culture and South Korean culture to act well in everyday situation. I defined directly the most important step for studying this language. I needed to learn about signs and sounds of each Korean symbols. I thought about which results I want to get four months later. I wanted to be able to realize my first activities when I will be in Korea. It means: search for and find a job, a flat, a football club... before to go or at the beginning of my time in Korea. The easiest to define for me was about the evaluation part. I thought directly that the best way to evaluate my learning and progress are my girlfriend and Korean friends. I used to speak often with them so they can be a good help during my learning. Thanks to the technology, I can contact them easily despite of the jet lag of eight hours.

b. The personal aspect of the project

The most difficult during my project formalization was to find a useful personal aspect on which one I could work. To find this, I worked on my MBTI and Individual Qualitative Appreciation. My last Individual Qualitative Appreciation was: "We hope that your future plans will allow you to put your choices and engage in a personal and professional project meaningful for the man and for the manager that you are becoming." I think I follow really well this advice. Cause my project to go to Korea is not a quick decision to follow someone at the other side of the world. More than discover an interesting culture, it is to learn about me and about my feeling far from my native country. By this way, I want to check if I will be able to work abroad, in a company far from France. I need to see if the miss of my actual life will be important, little or non-existent. Because, since I am in ENSGSI, I thought and I am still thinking about this possibility: leave the France and create a new life in a new country. One more time, this project is to be closer to some values which make me too.

All of this show me that my decision is good for me and will permit me to learn about me to make some important choices later. But it wasn't useful for finding a personal aspect to study during this project. It is the MBTI which permitted me to do it. The main goal of this project is to open opportunities and don't limit myself to what I am initially. My MBTI profile is ES_eFiP (Extraversion, extroverted Sensation, introverted Feeling, Perception):



The dominant function (extrovert Sensation) means I am open to the environment, take a maximum in account the informations and take pleasure in the sensation. This function expresses from the childhood and is the favourite one for ESFP.

The auxiliary function (introvert Feeling) means that I am in peace with myself, I express not so much my values and I have a strong interior passion. This function is typical during the teenage years. It is another favourite function which equilibrates the dominant in terms of nature (perception) and orientation (extroversion).

The tertiary function (extroverted Thinking) means I search ideas in the interior world and act according to my conclusion. It is the opposite pole from the auxiliary and not the favourite.

The inferior function (introverted intuition) means that I have a conceptual approach, look for links, elaborate models and share just thoughtful ideas. It is the opposite pole from the dominant and not the favourite.

Thanks to this, I had ideas about working channels. I had to take seriously the project, change my way to learn and stop to procrastinate. To desidentify from the dominant function, the best is to set an overview about the project. To desidentify from the auxiliary function I can come off the present. To become familiar with my inferior function, I could sequence my work. To familiarize with my tertiary thinking, I could stop to report tasks by organizing my work better.



What I chose to work about is the procrastination. It is an important problem close to me every time in my work. Learn Korean language alone is not an easy task. I need to work often to manage to improve my level. I used to work at the last time and for this project it is not the good way to learn well. Taking my language goal and individual purpose, I problematized my project:

How to learn the Korean language day to day in 5 months whereas I am working at the last time?

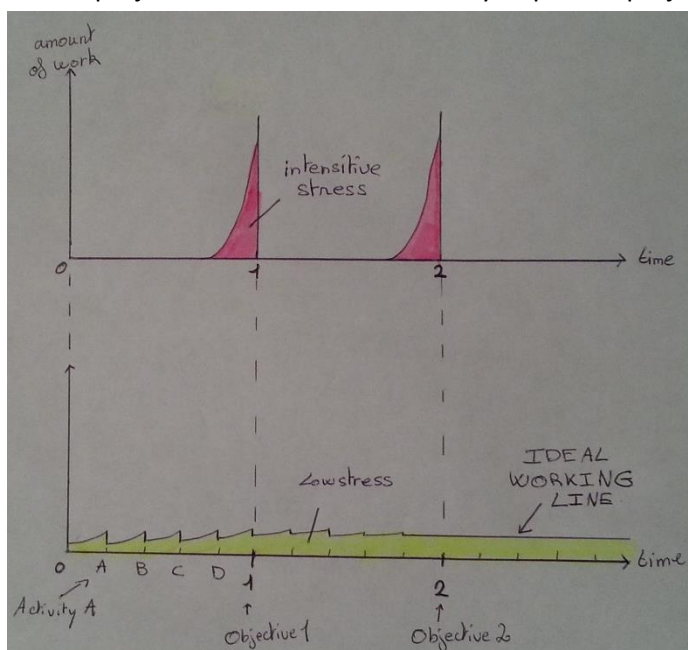
B/ A working method scalable

Throughout my project, my working method wasn't fix. It was a scalable method which permits me to plan, do, check and act. Plan a method, do this one, check if I managed to fill my goals easily with this working way and act to improve it.

a. From a method framed...

The procrastination

The first step before to really start to learn about Korean language was to read about procrastination and the time management. It permitted me to understand what it is. I realized that it is not the synonym of laziness. I understand that people who procrastinate, do what they really have to do at the last moment in a full stress situation. I do it too. And every time, I do less important things before really important things. It is a way to avoid to work on important things without feeling guilty to do nothing. My reading about procrastination said exactly the same thing and permit me to understand that it is a problem shared by a lot of students and workers. For me this project is really important and I am sure I will procrastinate even I plane a lot of activities. I am sure I will do all that I plane but at the last time or few days after the planned date. I have an idea to avoid this procrastination during my project. I will work about the way to plane a project.



This schema explains, at first, how I worked before the project and secondly how I started to work during my project. It was my method framed. The goal is to take an important purpose (a great objective, requiring a long moment to realize and planned for long) and to separate it in a lot of activities (less important for a global comprehension, requiring a short time to realize and close to one another). This method permits to work frequently so to memorize better and to avoid the spades of stress. The stress is really low every time, almost non-existent. The choice of alternating between pleasant and unpleasant tasks is important too. It is essential to know before each session what I have to do.

To do it, I chose to separate my work in sequences (1, 2...) with an important goal every one month. Moreover, each sequence has to be separated in sessions (1.A, 1.B...). For each session, I will have to realize something (read an article, speak about a subject...). Every time I will analyse if I do the activity during the time planned (yes or not? If not, why? What did I do instead of this activity?). I will keep all in an "experience page". I planned sequence by sequence and after each sequence I will analyse the positive and the negative of the method to improve it for the next sequence. Moreover, I will keep a trace of my work on the Wikispace. I divided my Wikispace like my planning: one page for the "Sequence 0" (about my project formalization), one page for the "Sequence 1"... and on each page there are all the description of each activities, few links, few photos or videos... All the Wikispace is written in English to try to keep my English level.

The sequence 1: The beginning of my learning

For this first sequence, the goal was to “be familiarized with the language (how to write the Korean and how to speak)” after one working month. Below, you can see the two first weeks of the sequence 1 planning: it is the first part of my “experience page”.

Date	Activity	Time planned	How/What did I do?	When did I do?	I am able to...	Time used
15/09	S1.A. Memorize different symbols and sounds.	2H	- Search some video and tables to understand how to write, pronounce symbols and make words. - Ask help to my girlfriend. - Use Korean keyboard on my mobile to practice.	15/09: 1h 16/09: 1h 17/09: 2h	Pronounce well 80% of symbols. Recognize 20% of symbols. Write few words.	4h
17/09	S1.B. Listen/write sounds with video or girlfriend.	1H	- I said all symbols to my girlfriend to have some good advices. - I tried to write some words that I already knew how to pronounce.	17/09: 2h 18/09: 2h	Pronounce well 90% of symbols. Recognize 40% of symbols. Write more words.	4h
19/09	S1.C. Try to write words already known and find new one.	1H30	- She said me what is wrong and I tried to correct by myself. - I asked some vocabulary to my girlfriend and tried to write it.	19/09: 45min 20/09: 45min	I wrote perfectly in one try just 30% of words and 50% after two tests.	1h30
21/09	S1.D. Recognize vocabulary already known pronounced by a Korean and try to pronounce good.	1H	- I asked some vocabulary to my girlfriend and tried to write it.	21/09: 1h	I wrote 10% perfectly in one try and 30% after two tests.	1h
22/09	S1.E. Check all that I learnt.	1H	- I watched all videos that I have seen, I read alphabet and wrote clearly all vocabulary learnt. - I asked to my girlfriend for recording and write a simple presentation about her.	23/09: 1h30	I feel more comfortable with alphabet than one week ago but I'm not able to read some unknown words without look symbol pronunciation.	1h30
23/09	Meeting 2 with Mike REES. 14h15					

One month later the beginning of this first sequence, it was the time to analyse positives and negatives aspects of this method.

The positive points are the followings:

- I respected the planning so I worked in time and not at the last moment: I didn't procrastinate.
- I managed to be familiar with the Korean language (faster than planned): it was the expected goal for this first sequence.
- I used different type or resources (videos, Korean friends and girlfriend, texts, I wrote in Korean...).
- I didn't use sabotage for not working.

The negative points are the followings:

- I used more time than planned for almost all session.
- Fill the “experience page” and the Wikispace required so much time which could be used to learn Korean.
- The first problem came out the 07 of October (three weeks after starting). This day, I realized that it was 1 week I didn't work on my project while previously I worked every two days and followed my schedule very well. This is due to some difficulty to learn Korean. Because of this, all what I planned were bigger than I thought because the tasks were accumulates. I restarted to procrastinate. I felt really disappointed when the method stopped to work after three weeks.

b. ...to a flexible approach

The method improved

This part is about the evolution from the Sequence 1. After some difficulties and discussion with M.REES and M.TANI, I set a new way to work. This way will be less structured, more flexible, based on the motivation, using new resources and easier to analyse. Still in order to avoid the Procrastination, I will define the improvement.

Just after stopping the Sequence 1, I had a meeting with Martine TANI to speak about my project and caesura in South Korea. It permits me to improve my way to work. This meeting permits me to realize several things and have new ideas for my future working method:

- Plan each dead-line is too much. I have to let me some freedom. The best is to try to work every 2-4 days and have a number of activities to realize each week.
- Keep motivation is the most important.
- I have to fix goals in my project for short period (1-2 weeks) and the main purpose of this project. Even I have already fixed the main purpose, I have to define it in one clear sentence.
- My free time to work this project is not regular so I have to choose an activity adapted to my free time when I am working.
- To do it, I have to create activities with different duration: 10 min, 30 min and 60 min for example.
- Formulate goals positively.
- Even when I am working with my girlfriend our working time spends well, I have to say her what I am waiting from her. I have to do the same with all Korean friends who help me to learn.

I improved my way to work. Firstly, a resource more professional using like working axis is added in my way to work. This tool is the book: "Cours De Coréen - Niveau Débutant - 2 Volumes (2cd Audio)". It's not a simple book but it mixes listening, speaking, writing and reading. It includes culture too. This book will guide all my work. Now my method to work is:

- Guided by a main purpose: **"In the middle of February, I will be able to introduce myself and answer to my need with the Korean language"**.
- Analysed easier: Every working time, I will use the Wikispace for two things: explain my achieved activity (what, where, how, which resources...) and my feeling. I am stopping to use the "experience page" but will continue to use Wikispace (Below, you can see an extract of my Wikispace).

19/10/13

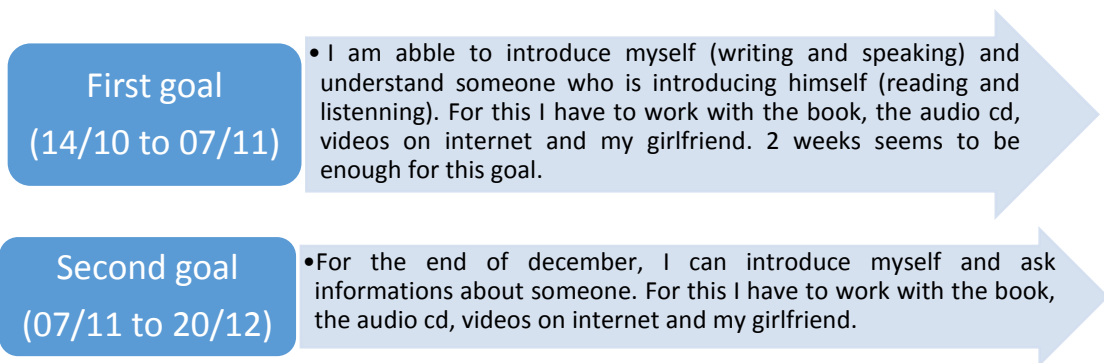
Activity

I read quickly the second lesson: 45 min cause I had no more time.

Feeling

Even my time is short, I can use the book to work. I keep in memory some website to Watch video about what I learn in the book too. Show to my girlfriend my increasement is a good way to keep the motivation too.

- Less structured: no activity planned for a specific day but some goals to achieve. Each one, two or three weeks, I will define a new goal. I will have few weeks to fulfil it. (See on the next page the two objectives that I defined by using this method during two months).



- Still varied with different resources: My Korean friends, internet (texts and videos) and book (the new book). The book will be the most important because it will permit me to define my goals. Others resources will complete my learning and permit me to vary the way to learn.
- More flexible: No time restrictions. I don't have to do, I can do because I am motivated.
- Based on the motivation: I have the motivation due to the personal aspect of this project. Now, I have to keep it by using various way.

A little change in this method which suits me more

Firstly, after one month using this method, I noted that I work a bit less but more effectively. Indeed, the book permits me to guide more easily my work and avoid me to lose time with thinking about the organization. Even the book is my guide, I continued to use others resources to complete my learning and varied the activities. The Wikispace is a good way to note quickly my activities and feelings day after day. Moreover, I am really happy to discover that the motivation is still in my mind after one month less structured.

On the other hand, after this first month, I stopped to work during 2 weeks because of too much others works. I felt disappointed to stop as long time as it. The only change was to establish a rule about the time management: work minimum 3 hours by week even I have a lot of others things to do. This method worked well and permitted me to work on the project without stop until the end of December. This time was the end of the project. My goal was fixed to the middle of February because my departure to Korea it is at this date. I can guess that for middle of February or the end, I will reach my main objective or be really close. It is a success for me. **I will be able to introduce myself and answer to my need with the Korean language.**

C/ The past learning to an optimal method

For this last part, I will use my vision of the language learning (formed by the school learning and the self-learning tested in the ENSGSI School) and what I learned about Learning during this project to set my future way to learn.

a. My vision of the language learning

Since I start to study different languages, I used different ways. I started around 10 years old to study English and then Spanish around 12 years old. Until arrived in the ENSGSI School, the only way to learn language was the school learning. This way permitted me to get good score but not good level. Indeed, learn lessons and do school exercises was easy for me because I was serious and studied well. This method was not well to get a really good level. I discovered my real level when I arrived in ENSGSI and make tests to check my English and Spanish level. Despite of my good score in college and high school, my English level was 360/980 for the TOEIC test and my Spanish level permitted me to join the second level classroom (there were 3 levels). I discovered there is a big difference between what our teacher waits about our learning in college and high school and what is really to learn a language.

During the second year in ENSGSI School, I started the self-learning in English and get 400/980 for the TOEIC test. Despite of a frequent work, my level didn't increased so much as I expected. The second year, really motivated, I chose to join the BEST organization becoming a BEST member in the Nancy LBG. After this year, several trips (In Lund, SWEDEN for example) and participation at few events, I saw my score reached to 595/980 for the TOEIC test. In fact, I realized that I learned a lot without learning! I mean, I took a lot of pleasure to participate to this experience (not like when I am sitting in front of a book) and learnt by speaking, exchanging about culture and travelling. That's why, the second year, I was really motivated to become Vice-President, to organize more events and after this, to go to Study in Luleå (SWEDEN) with ERASMUS program for one semester. I didn't pass the TOEIC test after this year but I am sure my level is now really close to 780/980 and maybe more.

b. What I keep from this project

In this project, it was more difficult to use the method that I like to use. I mean it was impossible to go to Korea to learn Korean by living there and meeting a lot of people. Contrary, the goal of my project was to learn a bit of Korean before my caesura in Korea. I tested a lot of way to learn during this project. What I can keep for the future, in order to not procrastinate any more, is:

- Firstly, it is not impossible to learn alone a new language, as difficult as it.
- The most important is to keep the motivation and to work a minimum of time by week.
- To set a main purpose (with a positive sentence) in your project and several objective in short term permits to guide your work.
- To use a serious resource like a book written by professionals is really important to guide your learning.
- To vary resources is important to add some fun in your learning.
- To test your level with a native friend (if possible) or with tests is really important to check your progression.

c. My future way to learn

In less than two months, I will be in Korea. During this year, I have some objectives with two language. The first one is to get my TOEIC by getting a really high score (not just the limit to get my graduate) which permits me to work with the English language. The second one is to get a good level in Korean language.

For these two language goals, I will have the possibility to train everyday by leaving and speaking with persons who speak these languages. Even I am in Korea, I will use frequently my English level with my friends living there and, I hope, in my job. With this way, I will learn Korean and improve English day after day by exchanging with people. Of course, to make perfect my English I will have to use others resources than friends. More for the Korean, I will continue to study with the book, internet resources and maybe try to join a class at the beginning of my trip. I will fix some rules to study weeks after weeks frequently. As in my project, I will define a minimum of working time by week. It will depend on my free time when I will get a job. This way to work seems to be really adapted to my mind: mixing exchange with people and structured learning with professional resources. Nevertheless, I will continue to experiment and improve my way to work according to the observations day after day. This learning is and will continue to be a sustainable learning.

Conclusion

I will conclude shortly because the last part of my report is close to a conclusion. This project, first of all, permitted me to start to fill my objective for the middle of February: learning the Korean language. I think that the life is made to learn every day; learning won't stop after my graduation. That's why, this project is more than just the Korean learning but it is about the optimization of time and the getting of best results in a learning method. I am now able to mix between a "social learning" more intuitive and a "professional learning" more structured.

Currently, my English level is close to the TOIEC score which can permit me to get my ENSGSI graduation and my Korean level is really more than non-existent even I am still a beginner. For the next year, I will continue to work with this method. My goal is to be able to use English day after day for more than basic discussion and use Korean language in the everyday life. Before to leave France, I will continue to maintain my English level by keeping contact with friends all over the world and studying Korean with my actual method. Moreover, if the time permits it, I would like to restart Spanish language that I stopped 3 years ago to get a good level. I have the ambition to speak really well three or four of these languages: French, English, Spanish and Korean in three years. The main goal is to join a company which will permit me to use these languages daily.

Bibliography

- Kwon, Y., Kim, H., Tcho, H., Choi, J., *Cours de coréen - niveau débutant (manuel + cahier d'exercices)*, Darakwon, 2011, 328 pages
- Article from the website: <http://blogs.univ-poitiers.fr/n-yeganefar/2013/06/30/la-procrastination-intelligente-tout-un-art/>
Yeganefar, N., *La procrastination intelligente, tout un art!*, 2013
- Article from the website: <http://www.structuredprocrastination.com/>
Perry, J., *Structured Procrastination*